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1968 MAR 18 16 58Z

P 181639Z MAR 68

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SECRET CITE NPIC 3260

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REF: S-0134/XX-2, 23 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJ: SUMMARY COMMENTS CONCERNING THE 11 BU Q MISSIONS EVALUATED BY NPIC.

1. THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARIZATION OF FACTORS AFFECTING IMAGE QUALITY OF BU Q MISSIONS EVALUATED BY NPIC.

2. RANDOM PARTIAL VEILING OF THE VEHICLE WINDOWS BY CONDENSATION, FROST OR ANOTHER SUBSTANCE APPEARS AS THE MAJOR IMAGE DEGRADATION IN A MAJORITY OF THE MISSIONS. OCCASIONALLY ENTIRE MISSIONS WERE AFFECTED.

3. THE DENSITY OF THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVES IS ADEQUATE TO SLIGHTLY THIN. IT IS FELT THAT AN EXPOSURE INCREASE OF FROM ONE-HALF TO ONE F-STOP WOULD HAVE IMPROVED ALL MISSIONS. IN ADDITION, THE ORIGINAL NEGATIVES ARE OF LOW CONTRAST. THIS IS LIKELY DUE TO A COMBINATION OF THE SLIGHT UNDEREXPOSURE, HAZE CONDITIONS AND THE AFOREMENTIONED WINDOW VEILING.

4. BANDING DUE TO UNEVEN SLIT TRAVEL IS EXPERIENCED ON ALL MISSIONS, ALTHOUGH NOT AFFORDING A MAJOR DEGRADATION OF THE IMAGERY. SUCH INTERRUPTED SHUTTER TRAVEL USUALLY INDICATES A "CLEANING" OR FINE TUNING OF THE SYSTEM IS IN ORDER.

5. STANDARDIZATION OF THE INFORMATION CONTENT OF THE WRITE-IN DATA BLOCK WOULD BE HELPFUL. SUGGESTED ENTRIES ARE: SORTIE/MISSION NUMBER, DATE, CAMERA UNIT NUMBER, AND VEHICLE NUMBER. SHUTTER SPEED (I.E., SLIT NUMBER REFERENCED TO A SHUTTER SPEED) AND F-STOP FOR MISSION WOULD BE OF VALUE.

6. PROCESSING OF THE NEGATIVES CAUSED LITTLE IF ANY DEGRADATION. NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE WAS NOTICED IN THE PROCESSING FROM THE TWO PROCESSING SITES. THE DUPLICATE POSITIVES WERE PRODUCED AT A CONTRAST LEVEL SATISFACTORY FOR INTERPRETATION. IT IS FELT, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE INITIAL CAUSE FOR THE LOW CONTRAST ON THE NEGATIVES IS CORRECTED THIS WOULD LEAD TO PHOTOGRAPHY OF HIGHER QUALITY.

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-- END OF MESSAGE --

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